

**A Christian Consolatory Letter; written by a Reuerend
Pastour and Minister of Gods Word, to one of his louing Parishio-
ners and Friends: vpon occasion of Gods Visitation of the said Pastors house
with the Pestilence; within two miles of London.**

Mr. I. L. Pastour of S. M. B.

To his assured true Friend and Parishioner, H. H. in London.

(The Christian Reader may understand that H. H. did first write vnto M. I. L. but hath
not thought the Copie of this Letter (mentioned) worthy the Presse.)

Good Mr. H. I hartily thanke you for your kind christian Letter, which I assure you
affected me and my wife no lesse in the reading than it seemes it did you in the writ-
ing. It hath pleased God to come neere vs indeed; to take away our poore little daughter
R. to wee heard yesterday: and I feare our maid *Mary* hath followed her: But since I haue
not heard from thence. What shall wee say to it? God is iust and wise: Hee thought it not
fit wee should escape in this common Iudgement, but would haue vs to drinke of the same
cup that so many thousands haue drunke of beside: perhaps hee saw that otherwise wee
would haue ben either too much lifted vp with our owne safetie, or lesse carefull to com-
passionate the afflictions of others, and to direct our steps in a streight way vnto him. Now
wee lue as children vnder the feare of the rod, and shall learne to stand in more awe of him
that hath power to punish vs. Yet my hope and comfort is, that it hath ben a correction
laid vpon vs in his loue, not in his wiath. My poore childe I doubt not is in the armes of a
better father, where he shall nei her any more suffer, nor any more sin. The Lord sancti-
fie his crosse vnto vs, and teach vs both to make the right vse of this that is past, and seri-
ously to prepare for whatsoeuer is to come. By his great and wonderfull mercy hee hath
prouided an other place for our refuge; where yet I blesse his name we continue sound and
well. And I beseech him it may not be with vs as with the Philistims, who whither soeuer
they remoued, still his plagues followed them. Howsoeuer, to say with DAVID; *It is the
Lord, let him doe what seemeth good in his owne eyes.* Good Mr. H. It hath bene a sad and a
chargeable time to vs, and so it is still like to bee. But I labour to liue by faith, and to rest
vpon the prouidence of that mercifull God, that feeds all the world; therefore will not (I
trust) forsake me nor mine. For your selues, that *must*, as you write, *endure the heate of the
day, of this the Lords Visitation*: I sorrow for you, and I pray heartily to God for you. Com-
fort your selues in the Lord: He can as well make daungerous places safe, as safe places daun-
gerous; his holy hand be euer ouer you, and ouer all our deere louing friends about you;
and he that helpt the three children in the midst of the burning Furnace, of his infinite
goodnesse, preterue and keepe you all, in the heate of this his burning Iudgement, that
the fire of it may not touch a haire of your heads. He that empties his Quier euery day so
fast, and spends his Arrows abroad, hide you all, as Arrows, in the Quier of his prouidence,
where you may be safe from daunger. I assure you, I desire nothing more, for mine owne
particular than to haue return'd among you, and should willingly haue continued in the
labour of my Ministry, for the good and comfort of as many as are left in my Charge; (whom
God is my record I loue vnfaignedly in the Lord,) during the vtmost of this Visitation,
though I had ben offered vp for your sakes. But as it hath pleased God now to deale, it
had ben altogether inconuenient: and the case standing as it does, I hope it is neither dis-
pleasing to the Lord, nor offensive to you, that for a time I withdraw my selfe, if God will
referue me for any further service in his Church. In the meane time, I shall be glad to
heare that you can provide any in my roome to bee helpfull vnto you. And for my selfe,
what I faile in one way, I shall bee diligent to supply another; Though I cannot weekly
preach to you, I will daily pray to the Lord for you: and the good Lord be mercifull to our
prayers; in his owne due time to refresh vs with his louing kindnesse, and to comfort vs ac-
cording to the dayes wherein he hath afflicted vs. Good Sir, continue your heartie prayers
for vs: And so intreat the rest of my deere and beloued Parishioners, that remaine; Salute
them all in the Lord; but especially those of my neerest acquaintance, many of whom I
haue in my mind, and would name in my paper; but fearing I may omit some; I shall in-
treat them to accept of this generall remembrance. Forget vs not vnto your good wife:
Wee thanke you and her, for your constant and entire loue vnto vs: The Lord recompence
it; and when he shall see good, after these times of mourning, send vs times of reioycing.

August. 1. 1625.

Your affectionate true
Friend, I. L.